Docket No. 740116-353 Serial No. 10/997,248

Page 9

REMARKS

By the above actions, claims 2, 11, 12, & 25 have been placed in independent form, the dependencies of claim 9, 13, & 14 changed to claim 2. In view of these actions, further consideration of this application is requested.

In particular, in paragraph no. 3 of his Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-8, 11, 12, & 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent for including all intervening claims. Since this has been done with respect to claims 2, 11, 12, & 25, and since all other claims are dependent on one of these claims, formal allowance of this application is now in order and is hereby requested.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise, which could be eliminated through discussions with applicant's representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Safran

Registration No. 27,997

NIXON PEABODY LLP Suite 900 401 9th Street, N.W. Washington D.C. 20004

Telephone: (703) 827-8094

DSS:kmm

W640066.1